

FACT SHEET



Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant Iowa City, Iowa

August 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will oversee field activities to be conducted by the MidAmerican Energy Company at the Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant site, 505 Burlington Street, Iowa City, Iowa. The field activities are scheduled to begin the last week of September 1999.

Availability Session Announcement

EPA will hold an informal meeting,

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library

123 S. Linn Street

Iowa City, Iowa

Representatives from the EPA, MidAmerican Energy Company, Iowa Department of Health, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa-Illinois Manor Partnership will be available to discuss site activities. You may attend the meeting at your convenience between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

The upcoming field activities include taking samples of soil, water and sediment in storm sewers on the site, and air in the crawlspace of the apartment building and near a vent system on the exterior of the apartment building. Ground water monitoring wells will also be installed and sampled.

While the field work occurs, trucks with drilling equipment will be present on and around the site. Personnel conducting the work will be wearing protective clothing. In the areas where the work is taking place, air will be monitored to make sure that field personnel and residents are not exposed to elevated levels of contaminants. The field work is expected to take several weeks and may impact parking for apartment residents.

SITE BACKGROUND

From 1910 to 1939, gas was manufactured at a plant located on the southeast corner of Burlington and Van Buren Streets. Iowa City Light and Power Company operated the plant. In the 1940's, Iowa City Light and Power Company became the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company (now known as MidAmerican Energy Company), which maintained service facilities on the property

until about 1971. In 1983, the Iowa-Illinois Manor apartment complex was built on the site.

When the gas was produced, by-products such as coal tar were also produced. Coal tar contaminants related to former manufactured gas plant operations, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene and toluene; metals, including lead, cyanide and arsenic; and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been identified in samples taken by EPA, both on and off site. Some compounds found in coal tar are hazardous substances that can cause health and environmental problems if handled improperly.

In March 1999, EPA, the MidAmerican Energy Company, and the Iowa-Illinois Manor Partnership, the owner of the apartment building at the site, reached an agreement, known as an Administrative Order on Consent or AOC. The AOC requires MidAmerican Energy to determine the nature and extent of coal tar contamination at the site and assess the threat to human health and the environment. The upcoming field work will provide the information that is needed to make these determinations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Site-related documents are available to the public at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa. If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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